would be interested in contributing special items which might not be covered to get in touch with the workers at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre.

It is proposed to publish the book within the next six months.—We are, etc.,

HARRY PLATT.
BRYAN MACFARLAND.
J. TRUETA.

Disabled Living Research Unit,
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre,
Headington, Oxford.

POINTS FROM LETTERS

The Late Professor F. Wood Jones

Dr. BARRY E. CHRISTOPHERS (366, Church Street, Richmond, E.1, Victoria, Australia) writes: I hope some day to write a short monograph on Frederic Wood Jones (see *Journal*, October 9, 1954, p. 873). In the meantime I am collecting data on this subject. I would be grateful if any readers of the *Journal* could assist me with any factual material on this question—e.g., a chronicle, an anecdote, a copy of a letter, etc.

Nails in Disease

Squadron Leader P. S. BAJWA (Defence Science Laboratory, Delhi 8, India) writes: I have made a few clinical observations regarding white spots and streaks on the nails (*Journal*, October 31, p. 876). I have noted that these white spots have an intimate causal relationship to emotional maladjustments to the environments. The individuals especially exhibit controlled but abnormal fear reaction and timidity. This emotional maladjustment appears to act through a metabolic disturbance. . . . Further work is required to provide a scientific proof for this clinical observation.

Reading the Number Plate

Dr. J. SHACKLETON BAILEY (Eye, Suffolk) writes: Your correspondent, Dr. S. Chaplin (*Journal*, December 26, 1959, p. 1487), complains of the unreliability of this test of a car-driver's sight, but he does not refer to the almost insuperable difficulties in its performance or tell us how he sets about it himself. Some years ago I asked an insurance company how the test should be carried out, and they henceforward abandoned it as impracticable, substituting a much more sensible routine of the Snellen type, requiring a standard equivalent to an ability to read a number plate at 25 yards (30 m.).

Home on the Second Day

Dr. CAROLOS ALEXANDRIDES (University of Thessalonika, Greece) writes: Referring to the article by Mr. G. W. Theobald, "Home on the Second Day" (*Journal*, December 19, p. 1364), I would like to point out that long ago—namely, in 1907—Professor Döderlein, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology in the University of Munich, stressed in his lectures that women in the puerperium could and should stand up 24 hours after delivery. . . . He used as an example the nomads.

Nocturnal Enuresis

Dr. H. J. FENN (Marlborough, Wilts) writes: I was told recently of a trick which used to be used with apparent success at a boarding-school to cure boys of this distressing habit. It may well be worth a trial. The method is to tie a string round the waist with a cork threaded on at the back, the idea being to prevent the subject sleeping on his back. It is suggested that urination does not take place in the lateral position.

Forwarding of Advertisements

Dr. G. N. PATTISON (Cheltenham) writes: I moved house three and a half months ago, and immediately notified the G.M.C., the B.M.A., and the publishers of the *Medical Directory*. Nevertheless it has taken all this time for the first of the many proprietary drug firms, who send such a spate of advertisements, to acquaint themselves with the fact. The G.P.O. is put to a great deal of extra work in redirecting this unsolicited flood of paper.

Obituary

WU LIEN-TEH, M.D., Sc.D., Litt.D., LL.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Wu Lien-Teh, who died in Penang on July 21, at the age of 81, was a remarkable doctor who rose to a high position in the medical services of China, where he was first director of the Manchurian Plague Prevention Service and physician extraordinary at first to the Emperor and then to successive presidents. He resigned from his posts in China in 1937.

Wu Lien-Teh was born in 1879 in Penang. A brilliant student, he swept all before him at home and abroad. He went to Cambridge with a scholarship and took a first-class in the Natural Sciences Tripos. He went on to St. Mary's Hospital with a university scholarship, and graduated M.B., B.Ch. in 1902, having won the Cheadle gold medal in clinical medicine, the Kerslake scholarship in pathology, and other prizes. With a research studentship granted him by Emmanuel College he spent a year working under Ronald Ross at Liverpool and then went on to Germany, Paris, and Baltimore. Having proceeded M.D. at Cambridge with a thesis on tetanus, he held a resident appointment at the Brompton Hospital before returning to the Straits Settlements, where he joined the Institute of Medical Research at Kuala Lumpur.

He went to China in 1907, when he changed his Malayan name of Gnoh Lean Tuck to Wu Lien-Teh. On his return to Malaya in 1938 he lived and practised in Ipoh.

Sir PHILIP MANSON-BAHR writes: The name of Wu Lien-Teh arouses many memories. In my student days it was almost a legend, and in my estimation this has gained in lustre ever since. His name stood for a good deal: it stood for what a poor Chinese boy, born in Malaya, could do with the educational facilities provided by the British at that time, which gained him a Queen's scholarship and enabled him to enter Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Everyone fell for this brilliant and versatile Chinaman, and his Western contacts made a durable impression on his mind. He was, and remained, a loyal son of Cambridge, and never throughout his long life ceased to reminisce about his undergraduate days.

After the grand tour he returned to Ipoh in Malaya, where he worked as a general practitioner until 1908, when he was called by the Chinese government to Tientsin as vice-director of the Imperial Medical College there. Thus Wu entered on his official career in China, in which he successfully served unperturbed through several revolutions and regimes, as he so picturesquely recalls in his autobiography.

At the age of 31 came the chance of his career. He was appointed head of the mission to fight the terrible epidemic of pneumonic plague then raging in Northern Manchuria. The name of Wu Lien-Teh flashed forth as a monument of devotion and courage. We can never cease to admire his staunchness. He had no doubts what he was up against. At that time diagnosis of pneumonic plague was a sentence of death, the mortality being 99.9%. There were no known remedies and only the vaguest notions of defence. It took a long time before the danger of droplet infection sank in. Doctors stood in front of their patients in full blast of their breath to examine their chests. They paid the price, and the death rate among the medical personnel amounted to 46%. The most unbelieving was Dr. Mesny, the French representative, who, refusing any kind of mask, very soon succumbed. There was little hospital accommodation for these poor refugees and little or no skilled assistance. With the ground iron-hard, graves could not be dug. Sometimes six weeks elapsed before the frozen corpses could be disposed of, even by burning. Eventually in one month some 1,416 were soaked with paraffin and cremated. Altogether the death roll amounted to 52,462 before the

miraculous end on January 31, 1911, when the gruesome bonfire was at its full blaze and celebrations for the Chinese new year had commenced. It may have been connected with the firing of crackers inside the houses, in place of in the customary street, that scotched the plague bacillus. Eventually the origin of the plague epidemic was traced to the marmot trappers who had inhaled *Pasteurella pestis* from the skins of the tarabagan (*Arctomys bobac*).

These and many other allied questions on the genesis of plague were brought forward by Wu at the International Conference on Plague at Mukden in April, 1911, and this led to further research on plague in susliks (small marmots) and other wild animals and to the recognition of sylvatic plague. After this episode he became world-famous, but this never affected his innate modesty.

Wu's activities were innumerable. Besides attending conferences in every continent, he became the world's leading expert on the opium trade. He reorganized and modernized Chinese medical education. He wrote much on plague, cholera, anthrax, and venereal disease, as well as on narcotics and medical education. His *Treatise on Pneumonic Plague* (1926) is a classic work. Only last year he produced his "magnum opus," *Plague Fighter, the Autobiography of a Modern Chinese Physician*, occupying 667 pages, and it is a most remarkable book, packed full of episodes of all kinds, but revealing the author as a great warm-hearted family man, intensely proud of his kith and kin and of his offspring. It reveals him also as a philosopher, tolerant of all the sins and failings of the European West. All through the book he conveys a warm affection for his British friends and admiration for their characters. Until the end, "Tuck," as he was familiarly known, would flash upon the scene here in London from time to time to make contact with his old friends and to show once more the miraculous resilience of a remarkable and lovable old man.

H. H. RAYNER, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.

Mr. H. H. Rayner, formerly consulting surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary and to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, died suddenly at Altrincham, Cheshire, on January 19. He was 80 years of age.

Henry Herbert Rayner was born in Preston on July 26, 1879, the son of a much respected general practitioner in Preston, Dr. A. C. Rayner. His elder brother, Dr. A. E. Rayner, O.B.E., has been for many years consultant radiologist to Preston Royal Infirmary. From Preston Grammar School "Bertie" Rayner, as he was known among colleagues and students, entered the Manchester medical school, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1901. After resident posts at Preston Royal Infirmary and the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, he became F.R.C.S. in 1907, and shortly afterwards was appointed resident surgical officer to the Manchester Royal Infirmary. After a very successful two years in this post he was elected honorary surgeon to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. In 1911 he became honorary assistant surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and some years later was promoted full surgeon. During the first world war he served as a captain in the R.A.M.C. on the *à la suite* staff of the 67th General Hospital, and with it went overseas to Marseilles.

When, on reaching the age limit, he retired from the active staff of the Royal Infirmary he lived for some years in Anglesey, but about five years ago, for family reasons, he returned to the neighbourhood of Manchester and lived at Altrincham, Cheshire, until his death.

Although he was not a frequent contributor to the surgical journals, Rayner gained a high reputation among surgeons by his papers on cancer of the rectum, acute appendicitis, and on other abdominal disorders. He was a skilful and scrupulously careful operator, and his results were so good that he inevitably gained a large consulting practice. But it was his clear-thinking critical mind that so greatly impressed both surgical colleagues and students and his intolerance of any humbug. He had a clear and incisive style in teaching and a sardonic humour that greatly endeared him to students. To have served under him as house-surgeon or registrar was regarded as a high privilege indeed. As a diagnostician in any obscure problem in general surgery he was supremely good. His memory as a colleague and as a teacher will long be held in the highest regard in the Manchester medical school.

Mr. Rayner leaves a widow, one son, and four daughters, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.—J. M.

R. E. APPERLY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. F.F.A. R.C.S.

Dr. R. E. Apperly, consulting anaesthetist to the Middlesex Hospital, died at Evesham General Hospital on January 29. He was 76 years of age.

Raymond Ebenezer Apperly was born at Stroud on July 7, 1883. He was a medical student at Middlesex Hospital, qualifying in 1907. After holding several house appointments at Middlesex he was elected to the staff as honorary anaesthetist in 1910. He also had an honorary appointment at the Hospital for Sick Children. During the first world war he served as a specialist anaesthetist in the R.A.M.C.

Dr. Apperly's first contribution to this journal appeared in 1912: it was on the subject of the effect of ether and chloroform on the liver and kidneys. He was twice vice-president of the Section of Anaesthetics at Annual Meetings of the B.M.A., and in 1930, at Winnipeg, he was president of the Section. He was elected F.F.A. R.C.S. in 1948.

Sir GORDON GORDON-TAYLOR writes: The death of Raymond Apperly brings to an end a lengthy and honourable connexion with the Middlesex Hospital which has lasted almost 60 years. For 30 years and more he had actively served the hospital as one of its honorary anaesthetists, and it was only in 1943 that a severe attack of coronary thrombosis compelled him prematurely to abandon his active connexion with the Middlesex and sent him down to his native Gloucestershire.

In his early days he had dressed for Sir Henry Morris; he had been house-physician to William Pasteur at a time when the latter was interesting himself in the problem of pulmonary collapse, especially after operations; he was house-surgeon to Sir John Bland-Sutton; and it was "J. B. S" who persuaded him to become an anaesthetist and abandon the idea of general practice, towards which he had already taken the first step. From the moment that Raymond secured a consultant appointment to Middlesex till the time that "J. B. S." gave up all practice, about 1928, I doubt whether the latter ever performed an operation without Apperly's assistance as anaesthetist. His professional competence secured a demand for his services by surgeons of London hospitals apart from Middlesex: Trotter, Lane, Bromley of Guy's, William Gilliatt, Elphick, Robert Jones when on London visits, and many others. His experience was a mirror of London surgical practice up to the outbreak of the second world war. Understandably he admired Trotter most. Bland-Sutton he worshipped; the pity is that he never wrote the story of his hero. For Apperly and J. B. S. in those days of peripatetic surgery must have travelled thousands of miles together, and many of the stories attached to Bland-Sutton came from Apperly, the raconteur.

Apperly was in no sense an investigator, but a consummate artist with the vehicles of anaesthesia available in his time. He was particularly expert in the use of chloroform and was at his very best in his use of it. In such operations as those for cancer of the tongue, pharynx, larynx, breast, etc., I doubt if he ever had a single death from chloroform. He was also a master of the art of regional anaesthesia, and took the trouble to journey to Vienna and Innsbruck to improve himself in the technique. He must have been the first anaesthetist in Britain to